



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 9, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT:

Paula Freund

Press Secretary

Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis

paula.freund@indy.gov; C: (317) 464-7112

www.indy.gov - [Newsletter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)

MAYOR DETAILS LARGEST INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN CITY'S HISTORY

CITYWIDE SEWAGE STORAGE TUNNEL WILL PROVIDE CLEANER WATERWAYS SOONER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today announced plans to bid the first section of a citywide tunnel system that will provide cleaner waterways faster than originally planned. The Deep Rock Tunnel Connector (DRTC) will be 18 feet in diameter, seven miles long, 250 feet below ground and hold 54 million gallons of raw sewage.

The DRTC is the first phase of the citywide tunnel system that is part of Indianapolis' Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Recent modifications to the Consent Decree, established in 2006 to address the problem of raw sewage flowing into streams and waterways through combined sewers across Indianapolis and finalized in December 2010, will allow the City to move forward on the project years ahead of schedule.

"The Consent Decree was \$300 million over budget at the start of my administration, and through negotiations with the EPA we arrived at approved changes that will produce savings of \$740 million for Indianapolis rate payers and divert ahead of schedule 3.5 billion gallons of sewage out of Indianapolis waterways," said Mayor Ballard. "The Deep Rock Tunnel Connector is a centerpiece of how we achieved those savings."

The DRTC will be advertised for contractor bids May 16, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) plans to open bids for the project on July 19. DPW will partner with the Department of Minority and Women Business Development to promote the project to minority-, women- and veteran-owned business enterprises. Construction will begin in late 2011 or early 2012. The completed DRTC will extend more than seven miles from the Southport Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Plant to north of the Belmont AWT Plant.

"With an estimated construction cost of \$250 million to \$300 million, the Deep Rock Tunnel Connector is by far the largest project the city has ever constructed," said DPW Director David Sherman. "We're looking forward to the positive impact this project will have not just on our neighborhoods but also on local companies. The construction inspection team, which was selected through a request for qualifications process earlier this year, includes seven local minority businesses. That's proof that the economic benefits are becoming a reality."

Extending from the DRTC, the four remaining CSO storage tunnels will run along White River, Fall Creek, Pleasant Run and Pogues Run. The CSO Consent Decree with the EPA and IDEM requires that the citywide tunnel system, which will bring the City's combined sewer infrastructure up to current standards, be complete and fully operational by 2025.

###